THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM) has not been closed down.

(b) and (c). However due to commercial non-viability the production operations other than Research, Development & Maintenance activities in OSCOM have been kept under suspension pending clearance of stock already accumulated in OSCOM and completion of Technological improvements in the plant. No worker has been discharged.

[*Translation*]

People Below Poverty Line in Eastern States

45. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be Pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of people living below poverty line in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Assam is more than fifty percent;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to raise the living standards of people in these States;

(c) whether any review has been made in regard to implementation of various anti-poverty programmes and if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch any special scheme during the current year to uplift the utmost poor people in these States and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allotted and utilised in these States on anti-poverty programmes during the last three years, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The percentages of people below the poverty line in rural and urban areas of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Assam as estimated from the findings of NSSO Survey 1987-88, do not exceed 50%. A part from various sectoral development programmes, specific poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) in rural areas and Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) in urban areas of these States are being implemented to raise the living standard of the people.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) The funds allocated and utilised in these States on major anti-poverty programmes in rural areas during the last three years were as follows:-

(Figs. in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	*State*	*Allocation*	*Utilisation*
1.	Assam	18,143.33	17,873.88
2.	Bihar	131,686.96	125,291.24
3.	Orissa	43,362.17	39.807.28
4.	West Bengal	71.532.74	64,118.25

Position in respect of anti-poverty programmes in urban areas is given below:

(i) **Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor:** The scheme is implemented by public sector banks and the Central Government provides capital subsidy at the rate of 25% of the total amount of loan and is routed through the public sector banks. The Central Government releases the subsidy to the RBI. There is no statewise allocation of funds under the scheme. During the period 1988-91, a sum of Rs. 76.65 crores has been released to RBI.

(ii) **Nehru Rozgar Yojana:** Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Depoalts of Pyrites in Sikar District

46. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge deposits of pyrites have been found in Sikar district of Rajasthan;

(b) whether Pyrites and Chemicals Limited has formulated a plan to set up a sulphuric acid and superphosphate plant there; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, a public sector company, has submitted a Detailed Project Report and a proposal for setting up a plant to manufacture sulphuric acid and single superphosphate. No date by which the project is likely to be approved, can be given.

[*English*]

Pineapple Processing Industry in Kerala

47. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Economic Community or any other funding agency has agreed to finance for establishing Pineapple Processing Industry at or near Muvattupuzha in Kerala;

(b) whether EEC or any other external agency has caused inspection to that effect; and

(c) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). A horticulture and Agro Processing Developmental Project including Pineapple Processing in the State of Kerala was prepared and posed for EEC assistance. The EEC's Appraisal Mission visited various parts of Kerala and appraised the project.

(c) The draft technical and administrative provision on the project have been approved by the Govt. of India, Govt. of Kerala and the EEC.

Rural Roads Corporation

48. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Rural Roads Corporation; and